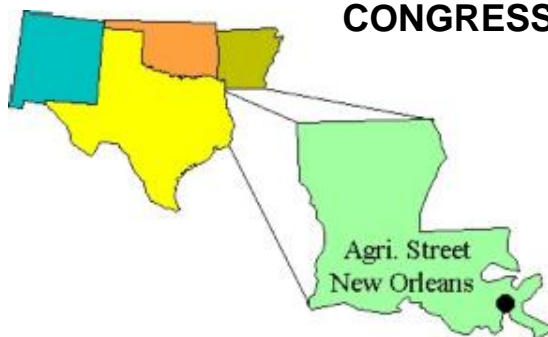


AGRICULTURE STREET LANDFILL

Orleans Parish Louisiana

EPA REGION 6 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 02

EPA ID# LAD981056997
Site ID: 0600646



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Updated: August 2012

Background

The Agriculture Street Landfill Superfund Site is located in the eastern section of the city of New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana.

The Agriculture Street Landfill Site was first authorized for use as a dump in 1909, when the City of New Orleans was engaged in an effort to phase out the dumping of municipal wastes and trash into various canals in the vicinity and into the Mississippi River. The landfill continued to be used until the city constructed its Florida Avenue and Seventh Street incinerators in 1957. The landfill was reopened in 1965 for approximately one year for a burning and disposal area for debris created by Hurricane Betsy.



Illegal Dumping Continues to Occur On-site

Prior to 1994, access to OU1, the undeveloped portion of the former landfill, was unrestricted, allowing unauthorized waste disposal and exposure to contaminants of potential concern. EPA installed an eight-foot high, chain link fence topped with barbed wire around the entire undeveloped portion of the former landfill (OU1). EPA conducted a second time-critical removal action at the site in February 1995 removing playground equipment and covering contaminated soil at OU3 with heavy grass sod. In March 1996, EPA completed a third time critical removal action to repair the fence surrounding OU1 which had been damaged by trespassers. In September 1997, EPA issued an Action Memorandum authorizing a Non-Time Critical Removal Action for OU1, OU2, and OU3. The removal action on OU1, consisted of clearing the 48-acre area, grading it to direct storm water runoff away from the residential area, laying a permeable geotextile mat followed with orange fencing, covering the mat/marker with twelve inches of clean fill, and re-establishing a vegetative layer on the clean fill. The removal action on OU2 and OU3 consisted generally of excavating 24 inches of soil, placing a permeable geotextile mat/marker on the subgrade, backfilling the excavated area with clean fill, covering the clean fill with grass sod, landscaping and yard restoration, driveway and sidewalk replacement, and final detailing.

Currently, the site is partially redeveloped. The estimated population residing on the site is 1,137 persons. From the 1970s through the late 1980s, approximately 47 acres of the site were developed for private and public uses and currently support 67 single-family homes, multiple-family dwellings (170 units are owned and operated by Housing Authority of New Orleans, 128 units are part of the Gordon Plaza Apartment complex), retail businesses, an elementary school, a community center, a recreation center and an electrical substation. The rest of the site, approximately 48 acres, remains undeveloped and heavily vegetated.

The primary contaminants of concern were lead, arsenic, and carcinogenic polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs).

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Agriculture Street Landfill Superfund Site OU1, OU2, and OU3 was signed in April 2002. The ROD for OU4 and OU5 was signed on September 2, 1997. Because previous removal actions were found to have addressed unacceptable risks posed by site contaminants, EPA has determined that No Further Action was the selected remedy necessary to protect public health or welfare or the environment at OU1, OU2, OU3, and OU4. No further action was also selected for OU5 (ground water) due to a lack of exposure pathways.

A total of approximately 69,032 tons of material were excavated and disposed. Approximately 70,081 cubic yards of sand backfill, and 125,865 cubic yards of topsoil were used in backfill, capping, and restoration on the site. Also, 55,732 square yards of sod were installed. Fences, gates, asphalt and concrete roadways, driveways, and sidewalks removed or damaged during the removal action were replaced or repaired

Status

- The city of New Orleans completed the fence repair work that surrounds the undeveloped property (OU1) in July 2012. No dumping signs will be posted, to help minimize illegal dumping, that occurs in the area. Plans are also underway to mow the vegetation on this operable unit.
- LDEQ conducts inspections at the site on a bi-annual basis to ensure that integrity of the cap is intact. The latest inspection was conducted on December 20, 2011. Their findings were shared with the City of New Orleans.
- On January 20, 2011 HANO issued a Request for Proposals for the Press Park Demolition and Remediation Environmental Testing, Design and Consulting Services. The submission date was February 17, 2011. The development of demolition plans is ongoing and will be discussed with the various stakeholders once it is complete.
- As of November 18, 2010, the City of New Orleans has secured a maintenance agreement for the mowing and upkeep of vegetation on the undeveloped property (OU1). The City plans to apply fertilizer on the property to stunt the growth of vegetation. These plans are projected to be completed next month. The City also plans to perform regular maintenance on this property to help facilitate the delisting of the site from the National Priorities List and possibly re-use.
- EPA met with the city of New Orleans on July 8, 2010 to discuss the status of maintaining the Institutional Controls, and attended the community's Town Hall meeting to discuss the concerns they continue to encounter with city services and impacts of site work with the cable company.
- EPA met with representatives for the city of New Orleans and HANO on March 19, 2009, to discuss and view institutional controls that are being implemented by the city at the site, and future land uses envisioned by HANO. During the visit it was observed that the vegetation on OU1 was mowed. EPA will continue to work with its stakeholders to ensure that the ICs are fully implemented.



Community Center prior to Hurricanes Rita and Katrina

- EPA in coordination with LDEQ inspected the site (September 25 and 29th, 2008 respectively) to ensure the integrity of the remedy was not impacted by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. No damage was observed.
- On August 5, 2008 the court entered the consent decree with the City of New Orleans (CERCLA) matter (E.D. La. 02-cv-3618). The decree protects the remedy and thereby, the public health, welfare, and the environment at the site by implementing the work and institutional controls described in the decree.
- EPA has completed the second 5-Year Review and its findings confirm the remedy is protective of human health and the environment. The report is available at EPA's web site at: http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/6sf-5_year_reviews.htm and the following information repository:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Public Records
Galvez Building, Room 127
602 N. Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday.
(225) 219-3172 or e-mail publicrecords@la.gov
- To ensure the integrity of the cap is maintained, the Technical Abstract provided to residents, utility companies and stakeholders at the completion of the response action is available on EPA's web page. This abstract provides the protocol that should be followed when excavating in the area. For additional information, please visit: http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/louisiana/ag_street/la_ag_street_tech_abstract_mar08.pdf
- The Findings of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) can be accessed through the Louisiana State Health's Department web page: <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/publications.asp?ID=205&Detail=1356&Arch=2006&Print=1>
- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality continues to perform bi-annual inspections of the site to ensure the integrity of the permeable cap is maintained and is intact. An inspection was performed on April 28, 2009.
- The comment period for the Notice of Intent to Delete the site from the National Priorities List concluded on October 25, 2004. Once EPA determines the ICs are functioning properly and are fully incorporated into the city's plans, EPA will pursue the final stage to delete the site from the NPL. The target time frame to complete this activity is January 2011.
- The Moton Elementary School - Operable Unit 4 and Groundwater - Operable Unit 5 were deleted from the Site NPL listing June 15, 2000.

Benefits

- The excavation and replacement of contaminated soils and the capping of the undeveloped area eliminated human exposures and protect the health of over 1000 people living on the site. The cleanup addressed 179 Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) town homes, 128 Gordon Plaza apartments, 7 retail businesses, and 58 out of 67 single-family homes located in the Gordon Plaza subdivision. The entire undeveloped property was cleared, grubbed, graded, lined, and covered with 1 foot of fill. A total of 69,031 tons of soil and debris was excavated and collected at the site, and a total of 195,945 cubic yards of backfill was utilized on site. Nine private homeowners in the Gordon Plaza subdivision elected not to participate in the cleanup of their properties.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

Site Hazard Ranking System Score: 50.00

Proposed Date: 8/23/94

Final Date: 12/16/94

Site Description

- Location:** The site is located in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. It is approximately three miles south of Lake Ponchartrain and 2.5 to 3.0 miles north-northeast of the Vieux Carre and the Central Business District. The approximate geographic coordinates for the center of the site are 29°59'20" north latitude and 90°02'31" west longitude. The site is bounded on the north by Higgins Road and on the east from Clouet Street (to the south) to Montegut Street (to the north). On the south and west, the site runs along the Southern Railroad right-of-way. The Peoples Avenue and Florida Avenue canals are located west and south of the site, respectively.
- Population:** 390 residential units housing about 1,000 people.
- Setting:** A 95 acre former City disposal area that has been partially redeveloped. Forty-seven (47) acres of the site have private and public housing; the Press Park Community Center; a recreation center; retail businesses; and the Moton Elementary School. The community is predominately African-American. The remainder of the site is undeveloped and covered by dense vegetation.
- Hydrology:** The Peoples Avenue canal is to the west and the Florida Avenue canal is to the south. Both receive storm water run-off from the site. Canal water is pumped into Industrial Canal which discharges into Lake Ponchartrain. A shallow aquifer (that is not a drinking water source) that underlies the site is encountered between 2 and 9 feet below land surface.

Wastes and Volumes

- The disposal area accepted municipal garbage, construction debris, incinerator and open burning ash. This type of material ranges in depth from 2 to more than 32.5 feet beneath the 95-acre site.
- The primary contaminants of concern were lead, arsenic, and carcinogenic polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs).

Health Considerations:

- MOTON SCHOOL: No health or environmental problems detected; the school was built on top of 3 to 5 feet of clean fill.
- SHALLOW GROUND WATER: Contaminated with elevated levels of metals. However, this aquifer is not used by humans and does not impact surface water.
- RESIDENTIAL AREAS - SOILS:
 - * **Surface Contamination (prior to the implementation of the 1997 Action Memorandum) -** Marginal human health risk:
 - 1.3 X 10⁻⁴ lifetime cancer risk (all contaminants of concern);
 - 6.1% children with projected risk (Lead (Pb) concentrations 500 to 1,000 parts per million (ppm)).
 - * **Future Surface Contamination** - If landfill materials below the top foot of soils were exposed due to human activity, health risks would increase to:
 - 5.0 X 10⁻⁴ lifetime cancer risk (all contaminants of concern);

- 63.8% children with projected risk (Pb concentrations 1,000 to 4,000 ppm).
- UNDEVELOPED PROPERTY SOILS:
 - * **Surface Contamination** - Prior to the cleanup, contamination levels on the undeveloped property (OU1) ranged from 37.2 to 28,300 ppm lead. The site was covered with dense vegetation and surrounded with an 8-foot fence.
 - * **Future Surface Contamination** - City zoned tracts "commercial."

Record of Decision

Operable Units 4 & 5: ROD signed 9/2/97
 Operable Units 1-3: Action Memorandum signed 9/2/97
 Operable Units 1-3: ROD signed 4/4/02

The **1997 Record of Decision for Moton Elementary School (OU4) and Groundwater (OU5)** required no further action because there was no risk to human health. The school was built on a three-foot layer of cleanup fill, which addressed all risks posed by this portion of the site. The groundwater was not used for any beneficial purpose and was not a source of drinking water.

The **1997 Action Memorandum response actions for the undeveloped property (OU1), residential properties (OU2), and the Shirley Jefferson Community Center (OU3)** eliminated human risk with capping and soil excavation and replacement. The 48-acre undeveloped property, was cleared of vegetation, capped with 12 inches of soil, graded, and compacted. A layer of geotextile filter fabric was placed on the subgrade to create a physical barrier between clean cover soils and contaminated subsoil. The top 24 inches of existing soil/waste material on the residential properties and community center were excavated and transported off-site for disposal. Permeable geotextile filter fabric was placed on the subgrade and covered with clean fill.

The **2002 Record of Decision for on OU1-3** required no further action as the cleanup under the 1997 Action Memo addressed all contamination.

The site is inspected at least once every five years.

Site Contacts

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